

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00

CIAE-00 INR-05 INRE-00 PRS-01 DODE-00 PM-03 PA-01

USIE-00 SP-02 L-01 /041 W

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O 061145Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5318

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FOR EUR/SE

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, GR, US

SUBJ: AMBASSADOR'S AKROPOLIS INTERVIEW: STRONGLY FAVORABLE REACTION  
BY CARAMANLIS AND REQUEST FOR FURTHER PUBLICITY BY DEPARTMENT

REF: A) ATHENS 6716, B) ATHENS 6645, C) ATHENS 6626, D) STATE 162623

1. THE AMBASSADOR'S BICENTENNIAL INTERVIEW FOR THE SUNDAY SUPPLEMENT OF AKROPOLIS (REFTELS) HAS THUS FAR BEEN EXTREMELY WELL RECEIVED IN GREECE. THE AKROPOLIS SUNDAY EDITION WAS REPORTEDLY COMPLETELY SOLD OUT, AND THERE HAVE BEEN NUMEROUS FAVORABLE REACTIONS EXPRESSED BY BOTH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND PROMINENT PRIVATE PERSONALITIES. IN BOTH CONTENT AND TIMING THE INTERVIEW APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN JUST RIGHT, ALTHOUGH SOME OF THE OPPOSITION AND OUR MOST VIGOROUS CRITICS HAVE YET TO BE HEARD FROM.

2. INDEED, THE WHOLE WEEKEND-JAMMED PANORAMA OF BICENTENNIAL EVENTS AND CELEBRATIONS IN GREECE WENT OFF MOST SUCCESSFULLY AND WERE CAPPED BY THE GREATEST HIGH-LEVEL TURNOUT IN RECENT MEMORY OF PROMINENT GREEKS  
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FOR THE AMBASSADOR'S OFFICIAL RECEPTION YESTERDAY --

LED BY PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS AND AN ARRAY OF TOP GOVERNMENT MINISTERS AND MILITARY. CARAMANLIS' ATTENDANCE AT THE RECEPTION -- IT HAS BEEN HIGHLY PUBLICIZED IN TODAY'S PRESS -- MARKED THE FIRST TIME HE HAS VISITED A FOREIGN EMBASSY SINCE RETURNING TO GREECE TWO YEARS AGO, AS HE MADE SURE EVERYONE WITHIN EARSHOT WAS AWARE (SEPTTEL TO FOLLOW REPORTING BICENTENNIAL EVENTS).

3. CARAMANLIS EXPRESSED HIS GREAT PLEASURE TO THE AMBASSADOR WITH THE AKROPOLIS INTERVIEW AND PARTICULARLY THE AMBASSADOR'S TWO-PARAGRAPH RESPONSE -- AS PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT -- TO THE QUESTION ABOUT THE U.S. BEING BEHIND THE COUP IN 1967 AND RESPONSIBLE FOR THE COUP AGAINST MAKARIOS IN 1974 (REFS. B AND D). CARAMANLIS SAID HE WANTED TO SEE THE WIDEST POSSIBLE PUBLICATION OF THIS INFORMATION IN GREECE AND SAID THAT HE AND HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD DO EVERYTHING THEY COULD TO DRIVE THESE POINTS HOME INTO THE GREEK CONSCIOUSNESS. TO ACCOMPLISH THIS, HOWEVER, CARAMANLIS SAID HE THOUGHT THERE SHOULD BE AN ADDITIONAL, REENFORCING STATEMENT MADE BY AN AUTHORIZED STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL, CONFIRMING WHAT AMBASSADOR KUBISCH HAD SAID TO AKROPOLIS AND, IF POSSIBLE, EVEN ELABORATING ON IT SOMEWHAT. (BY THAT, HE MEANT BEING MORE SPECIFIC ABOUT WHAT WE HAD DONE IN 1967 IN THE WAY OF "CONCRETE STEPS" TO INDICATE OUR DISSATISFACTION ABOUT THE INTERRUPTION OF GREEK DEMOCRACY -- SUCH AS SUSPENDING MILITARY ASSISTANCE, ETC.) CARAMANLIS SAID THAT THE INTERVIEW HAS ALREADY HAD AN EXTREMELY FAVORABLE IMPACT BUT HE WAS AFRAID THAT SOME OTHER NEWSPAPERS, WHICH HAD SHIED AWAY FROM SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTS OR FAVORABLE TREATMENT OF THE AMERICAN BICENTENNIAL, WOULD -- FOR REASONS OF POLITICS OR JOURNALISTIC COMPETITION -- DOWNPLAY THE AMBASSADOR'S INTERVIEW AND MANY GREEKS WOULD SIMPLY BE UNAWARE OF IT. (COMMENT: WITH FEW EXCEPTIONS OTHER NEWSPAPERS ARE INDEED GIVING ONLY MINIMUM TREATMENT TO THE INTERVIEW, ALTHOUGH WE BELIEVE THAT VIRTUALLY ALL NATIONALLY IMPORTANT AND POLITICALLY CONSCIOUS GREEKS ARE VERY MUCH AWARE OF IT.)

4. THEREFORE, CARAMANLIS SAID, IN ORDER TO DRIVE THE POINTS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HOME THEY SHOULD BE MADE AGAIN BY AN OFFICIAL WASHINGTON SOURCE. IF, FOR EXAMPLE, A QUESTION COULD BE ASKED AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S REGULAR NOON BRIEFING FOR THE PRESS THIS -- IN CARAMANLIS' VIEW -- WOULD BE IDEAL. THE QUESTION COULD BE SOMETHING LIKE, "WE SEE THAT THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR IN GREECE SAID OVER THE WEEKEND THAT NEITHER THE USG AS A WHOLE NOR ANY COMPONENT OF THE USG WAS INVOLVED IN THE 1967 COUP IN GREECE ...

AND THAT IT IS NOT TRUE THAT THE US FAVORED OR WAS IN ANY WAY INVOLVED IN THE TRAGIC COUP AGAINST PRESIDENT MAKARIOS. ARE THOSE STATEMENTS TRUE AND WAS HE AUTHORIZED TO MAKE THEM?" THE SPOKESMAN COULD THEN REPLY THAT THE STATEMENTS WERE INDEED TRUE AND THAT THE AMBASSADOR WAS AUTHORIZED TO MAKE THEM, PERHAPS GOING ON WITH ANOTHER SEVERAL SENTENCES GIVING ADDITIONAL DETAILS. CARAMANLIS SAID THAT THIS REPLY WOULD THEN BE PICKED UP AND FILED TO GREECE, ENABLING THE GOG TO ENSURE THAT THE WIDEST POSSIBLE PUBLICITY WAS GIVEN TO IT.

5. THE AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED TO CARAMANLIS THE DIFFICULTIES IN ARRANGING THIS AT THE PRESS BRIEFING IN WASHINGTON, POINTING OUT THAT THERE WAS NOT LIKELY TO BE THAT MUCH INTEREST IN THE SUBJECT BY THE JOURNALISTS WHO ATTENDED THESE DAILY BRIEFINGS. THE AMBASSADOR OFFERED TO MAKE SIMILAR STATEMENTS ON THE RECORD TO OTHER GREEK NEWSPAPERS, BUT CARAMANLIS SAID HE THOUGHT IT WAS FAR PREFERABLE THAT THE NEXT STEP BE A REENFORCING AND VERIFYING STATEMENT MADE IN WASHINGTON. HE SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED THAT HIS SUGGESTION BE CONVEYED TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT FOR ITS CONSIDERATION. HE ADDED THAT HE HOPED SUCH A STATEMENT WOULD BE FORTHCOMING EITHER TODAY OR TOMORROW, IF POSSIBLE.

6. WE AGREE THAT SUCH A STATEMENT BY A DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TODAY OR TOMORROW WOULD BE TIMELY AND HELPFUL HERE. IF IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO ARRANGE FOR AN APPROPRIATE QUESTION AND ANSWER IN THE REGULAR DAILY PRESS BRIEFING, WE THINK IT MIGHT BE ALMOST AS GOOD TO HAVE AN EUR/SE OFFICER MAKE SUCH A STATEMENT --EVEN OVER THE TELEPHONE -- TO A SUITABLE WIRE SERVICE OR NEWSPAPER JOURNALIST, OR SEVERAL OF THEM, WHO CAN BE RELIED UPON TO FILE THE STORY TO THE GREEK LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRESS. IN OUR VIEW, THE STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL NEED NOT BE IDENTIFIED BY NAME OR POSITION AS LONG AS THE STORY IS ATTRIBUTED TO "AN AUTHORIZED STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL" OR TO "THE STATE DEPARTMENT."  
KUBISCH

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS CONFERENCES, BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 06 JUL 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** coburnhl  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976ATHENS06742  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760259-1018  
**From:** ATHENS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760790/aaaadate.tel  
**Line Count:** 159  
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**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
**Reference:** 76 ATHENS 6716, 76 ATHENS 6645, 76 ATHENS 6626, 76 STATE 162623  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** coburnhl  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 28 APR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <28 APR 2004 by buchant0>; APPROVED <23 AUG 2004 by coburnhl>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** AMBASSADOR'S AKROPOLIS INTERVIEW: STRONGLY FAVORABLE REACTION BY CARAMANLIS AND REQUEST FOR FURTHER PUBLICITY BY DEPARTMENT  
**TAGS:** SOPN, GR, US, (AKROPOLIS)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006